



2004 Recreational Bottom Fishing Regulations: **Southern Management Area**

Ocean waters between 34°27' N. latitude (Point Conception) and the U.S.-Mexico Border



BOLD RED FONT indicates in-season changes expected to take effect on May 1. These changes replace regulations listed in the 2004 Ocean Sport Fishing Regulations booklet. May 1 regulation changes will affect fishing seasons and depth restrictions.

Species	Time Period ³	Depth Limit ²	Daily Bag Limit ³	Min. Size Limit ^{1, 3, 4}
RCG Complex (including all species of <u>Rockfish</u> not prohibited or restricted, <u>Cabazon</u> and <u>Greenlings</u> as defined in Section 1.91)	<u>Open</u> Mar-Dec; <u>Closed</u> Jan-Feb	Mar-Aug: May only be taken in less than 360 feet (60 fathoms) Sept, Oct: May only be taken in less than 180 ft (30 fm) Nov, Dec: May only be taken in less than 360 feet (60 fathoms)	10 fish in combination; see sub-limits for cabazon, greenlings, and bocaccio,	See individual species and groups below
Canary, Cowcod, and Yelloweye Rockfishes	CLOSED all year; NO RETENTION		NO RETENTION (zero)	
Cabazon	Same as RCG Complex above	Same as RCG Complex above	3 fish; also included in the 10-fish aggregate RCG complex bag limit	15" total length
Kelp and Rock Greenlings	Same as RCG Complex above	Same as RCG Complex above	2 fish in combination; also included in the 10-fish aggregate RCG complex bag limit	12" total length
Bocaccio	Same as RCG Complex above	Same as RCG Complex above	1 fish; also included in the 10-fish aggregate RCG complex bag limit	10" total length
Ocean Whitefish	Same as RCG Complex above	Same as RCG Complex above	10 per person	None
California Sheephead	Same as RCG Complex above	Same as RCG Complex above	5 per person	12" total length
Lingcod	<u>Open</u> Mar-Oct <u>Closed</u> Jan, Feb, Nov, Dec	Mar-Aug: May only be taken in less than 360 feet (60 fm) Sept, Oct: May only be taken in less than 180 ft (30 fm)	1 per person	30" total length
California Scorpionfish	<u>Open</u> Mar, April, Nov, and Dec; <u>Closed</u> Jan, Feb, and May-Oct	Mar, Apr, Nov, Dec: May only be taken in less than 360 feet (60 fm)	5 per person	10" total length
Other Federal Groundfish (see list below this table, or go to www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/groundfish_fedlist.html)	Open all year	Same as RCG Complex above	See regulations for individual species	See regulations for individual species

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Sanddabs⁵	Open all year	No depth restrictions	No bag or possession limit	None
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- 1 See regulations for information on gear restrictions and fillet lengths
- 2 In Cowcod Conservation Areas fishing is prohibited in waters greater than 120 feet (20 fathoms).
- 3 Subject to in-season change. Check the Marine Region Web site at www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd, or call your local DFG office for the latest information.
- 4 Total length is the longest straight-line measurement from the tip of the head with the mouth closed to the end of the longest lobe of the tail. See pg. 48 of the Ocean Sport Fishing regulation booklet for a diagram, or go to www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/measurement.pdf
- 5 The sport fishery for sanddabs, using gear specified in federal and state regulations, is exempt from the in-season closures and depth restrictions placed on other federally managed groundfish as of May 1, 2004.

List of Federally Managed Groundfish That Fall Under the “Other Federal Groundfish” Category

NOTE: This is NOT a complete list of federally managed groundfish. It is a list of federally managed groundfish not specifically mentioned in the table, for purposes of defining the species of fish included in the “Other Federal Groundfish” category within this table.

SHARKS:

leopard shark, *Triakis semifasciata*
soupin shark, *Galeorhinus zyopterus*
spiny dogfish, *Squalus acanthias*

RATFISH:

rattfish, *Hydrolagus colliei*

SKATES:

big skate, *Raja binoculata*
California skate, *R. inornata*
longnose skate, *R. rhina*

MORIDS:

finescale codling, *Antimora microlepis*

GRENADIERS:

Pacific rattail, *Coryphaenoides acrolepis*

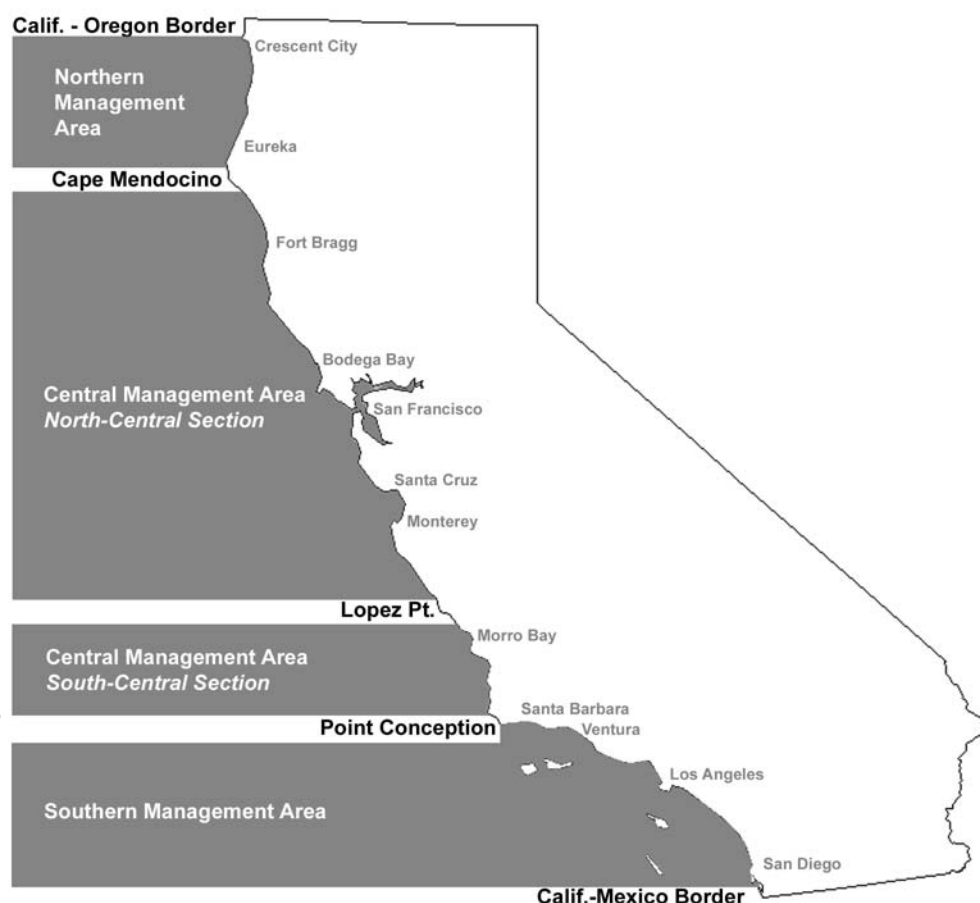
ROUND FISH:

Pacific cod, *Gadus macrocephalus*
Pacific whiting, *Merluccius productus*
sablefish, *Anoplopoma fimbria*

FLATFISH:

arrowtooth flounder (arrowtooth turbot), *Atheresthes stomias*
butter sole, *Isopsetta isolepis*
curlfin sole, *Pleuronichthys decurrens*
Dover sole, *Microstomus pacificus*
English sole, *Parophrys vetulus*
flathead sole, *Hippoglossoides elassodon*
petrale sole, *Eopsetta jordani*
rex sole, *Glyptocephalus zachirus*
rock sole, *Lepidopsetta bilineata*
sand sole, *Psettichthys melanostictus*
starry flounder, *Platichthys stellatus*

Map of Fishing Management Areas



Pacific halibut (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*) is managed by the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC). The Department supports all rules and regulations adopted by the IPHC.